

CDHE Colorado Completes Tour

* Required



COLORADO

Department of
Higher Education

Submit an event for the Colorado Completes Tour!

Please complete this form to propose an event for the Colorado Completes campaign. Your event should showcase innovative completion practices with proven results for ensuring students are graduating on time. All public and private COF-funded institutions are welcome to submit.

Name of Institution * Metropolitan State University of Denver

Name of Program/Practice * Brother to Brother Program

Department * Student Academic Success Center

Contact Information- Name * Bridgette Coble, B2B Program Manager

Contact Information- Phone Number * 303-556-2252

Contact Information- Email * bcoble@msudenver.edu

Practice Innovation *

What is the innovative practice your institution engages in, in order to improve graduation rates/timely completion? Max. 500 words

MSU Denver has a commitment to diversity, inclusion and student success. The Brother-to-Brother (B2B) Program is entering its second year as a pilot program that provides a strategic response to low retention and graduation rates of our African American and Latino male students.

The aim of B2B is to use four programmatic pillars (leadership development, social integration, academic support, and career preparation) to increase the retention and graduation rates of male students and to meet the future work-force needs in the local, national, and global economy. In an effort to be inclusive, all male students are eligible to participate in program activities. However, all programming has an intentional focus on the issues impacting African American and Latino Male students. Given the national data on student success, it is important to expose males to programming that promotes their ability to move toward their goals and aspirations (Harper, 2012). Since male students have unique needs and interests, the program presents a well-rounded set of approaches which respond to the lived experiences of African American and Latino men. The program offers educational services to all students, but the central focus of B2B is the Fellows program.

The B2B Fellows program is intended to help small groups of male students through a deep focus on the leadership development, career development, academic skill development, and social development. This year we hope to select 50 Fellows to participate in yearlong programming. A new cohort of Fellows is selected each academic year.

The qualifications to be a Fellow are as follows:

- Male student of color at MSU Denver. Focus on African American and Latino men
- Ideally, Sophomore status – minimum of 30 credits

- Transfer student – minimum of 30 and a maximum of 70 transferable credits
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.00

B2B Fellows are expected to engage in a series of programming designed to support their academic success and expose them to leadership opportunities. Each Fellow is assigned to a faculty/staff coach who offers professional and personal support throughout the academic year. At the completion of the program B2B Fellows receive recognition for their accomplishments and have hopefully, acquired the skills necessary to continue a path of academic success.

Proposed Event *

What event are you proposing to host that will highlight this practice? Max. 500 words

The B2B Fellows program sponsors monthly events and activities to support participants. We are proposing our Critical Discussion on Race program that is scheduled for mid-November. The event is open to the MSU Denver campus community and is an expected program for B2B Fellows to attend. The goal of this program is to provide education regarding race and racism and facilitate an honest conversation that allows students to share personal experiences, extend support and consider potential responses and solutions to helping address racial inequity.

Data

Please provide research on which the program is based and data that proves the program's effectiveness in producing desired outcomes. Max. 500 words

Data suggests that minority males are dropping out of higher education at concerning rates, thus becoming a societal problem. The issue of societal problems has an impact on males' abilities to be successful. According to the Congressional Record, 56% of African American and 52% of Latinos graduate from high school on time (2007). Once these students, graduate from high school, and continue on to post-secondary education, many are not being successful. The American Council of Education found that six year post-secondary graduation probability for African American Males is 35%, 46% for Latino males, 59% for White males, and 45% for African American Women (2010). These national numbers show how males are at risk of not being able to participate in the greater American society. That is, they may not have the ability to apply for jobs and have the financial stability necessary to live a fulfilling life. In short, the phenomenon of falling behind undergirds the cycle of poverty already impacting many African American and Latino males. The story for male students at MSU Denver is following the national trend. The six year graduation rates for First-Time (full and part time) African American and Latino students at MSU Denver are troubling. More concerning is that for every 100 First-time Male Students who attend the University, on average 12 will graduate in six years. It is hard to view these numbers and keep in mind the national research, which shows male students (as a whole) are currently the most at-risk population of students (Hersh, 2005). These data suggest that the University must identify and employ an intervention to help Male Students in the second year to progress until graduation. The Brother to Brother program is designed to achieve the following: a) close the achievement gap for Male Students; b) serve Male Students through the use of best practices; and c) provide them a place where they can be safe (vulnerable) and receive the support needed to progress toward graduation.

Data from our first year of B2B shows the following

- o The B2B Fellows Program had a total of 37 men participate in 2013-2014
- o 37 of 37 participants enrolled in fall 2013 returned in spring 2014 (100%)
- o 4 of the 37 graduated from MSU Denver
- o 22 of the remaining 33 are registered for classes fall 2014 (67%)

Student Demographics *

Does the program include a component to serve populations who have traditionally had lower completion rates? Max. 500 words

The B2B program targets African American and Latino male students (ideally in the second year of college) specifically because data shows retention rates drop significantly for these two populations

during the second year. Both populations reflect graduation rates lower than that for the overall university population.

Promotion *

How will you promote the event on campus and off-campus? Max. 250 words

All B2B Fellows are expected to attend the Critical Discussion on Race. In addition, we invite men who participate in the Community College of Denver's Urban Male Initiative program to join us. Flyers are distributed across campus to various programs and departments inviting them to attend the program. Last year we had approximately 40 people attend. We expect to see about 50-60 attend this year.